

**Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center  
 Senate Recommendation 2017**

**A. Written Report Summary**

1. **Purpose:**

Established in 1983, the Mansfield Center is dedicated to increasing exchanges, mutual understanding and leadership training between the U.S. and global community, especially the Asia-Pacific region. Reflecting the Mansfield legacy, the Center seeks to incorporate an ethical dimension in all its work and has dedicated increased attention to international public policy, economic development, and trade. In addition, the Center is dedicated to teaching of critical languages and cultures to the U.S. military community.

1. **Objectives:**

* Offer courses on contemporary international relations, comparative politics and Asia
* Identify resources to build UM’s Asian offering, and help coordinate instruction on Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia
* Offer courses on ethics and public affairs
* Broaden community and public understanding of national policy issues, current events and Asian politics, economics, cultures, businesses and peoples, as well as key contemporary trends through outreach
* Promote greater awareness and scholarship on Asia-related issues through support for research, symposia, and annual conference
* Promote and coordinate exchanges with academic and government institutions in Asia, Montana state government, state businesses and federal level institutions
* Sustain special focus on energy, environmental, economic development and public policy projects
* Provide leadership development programs for Asian leaders, scholars and students
* Provide critical language and cultural programming for Department of Defense and the National Guards across the country
* Provide international current event briefings for business, community and government leadership groups
* Provide Chinese language and culture programs for K-12 students across Montana
* Fundraise for projects and programs

1. **Anticipated activities:**

* Continue leading regional, national, and international dialogues on key political, economic, social and cultural issues relating to Asia and the U.S.
* Maintain a broad array of existing programs and projects at current high quality, subject to review and further development, as appropriate
* Extend work in the area of energy, global health, public policy, economic development and leadership
* Expand training programs for East and SE Asian faculty, officials and students;
* Further develop ties to Korea, Japan, China and Vietnam
* Support UM’s global education initiatives
* Continue and expand language and cultural programs for the Department of Defense
* Expand online training and education programs to expand Mansfield Center’s outreach across the globe

**4**. **Other organizations involved:**

Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, Office of International Programs, UM’s Central and Southwest Asia Program, UM Division of Continuing Education, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, UM’s School of Business Administration, Montana World Affairs Council, City of Bozeman, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Montana’s Department of Commerce, Montana’s Office of the Governor, Montana’s Attorney General Office, Grizzly Rider International, and the Confucius Institute

**5. Reporting line:**

The Center reports to the Provost and the President.

**6. Relationships with institutional mission and contribution to academic programs:**

The Mansfield Center contributes to the University’s mission to “search for truth and new knowledge, the responsibility to disseminate knowledge, and the obligation to provide service to the people of the state, nation, and world.” It contributes to new knowledge through workshops, seminars, conferences, assistance to research programs, and by bringing in visiting research professors/experts/leaders from East and Southeast Asia. It provides unique international training and professional develop for UM faculty, staff and students by providing project-based opportunities to explore current world issues. Moreover, it disseminates knowledge through undergraduate courses provided by visiting professors. In addition, the Center provides funding (e.g., Yamaguchi Fund) to professors and departments across campus to pursue research projects, participate in academic conferences and/or engage in field research. Finally, it provides service via a diverse array of outreach programs, including the Confucius Institute that provides Chinese language instruction statewide, offers an array of cultural events, and provides teacher training locally and out-of-state.

**7.** **Similar programs:** N/A

**8. Budget:** See attached form

**9. Current faculty and percentage of time:**

None of the listed personnel are state supported; all are grant or SPABA supported.

Abraham Kim, Director 100%

Deena Mansour, Associate Director 100%

Don Loranger, Program Director 100%

Kelsey Stamm Jiminez, Program Manager 100%

Mel Wardlow, Program Manager 100%

Suhan Chen 100%

Chelsey Porter, Financial Manager 100%

Caitlin Sager, Administrative Assistant 100%

Matthew Olson, Communication Fellow 50%

In 2016, the Mansfield Center lost a University-funded faculty line when its occupant retired; to partially make up for that, the University agreed to provide $30,000 annually, or approximately one-quarter of the former line’s budget, to support academic offerings. The Center collaborates with Finance Officer for the Mansfield Foundation (Elizabeth Oleson) and a budget officer for the Foundation (Linda Greiner). It also hires student assistants as necessary.

Additionally, a number of staff members in the Mansfield Center Confucius Institute are funded by the Chinese government. And numerous staff members are funded by the Department of Defense through the Mansfield Center’s Defense Critical Language and Culture Program.

**10. Need and cost for new faculty (next five years):**

In the next five years, the Center will likely require a new Director (current director will become faculty: Mansfield Professor); a new Associate Director; new Mansfield Professor (Weidner will replace Philip West). Note: Director and Associate Director are grant-supported positions; Mansfield Professor is state-based line.)

**11. Need for other personnel:**

The Center would like four half-time faculty lines (two total lines) which would be combined with departmental lines in East Asian Studies.

**12.** **Use and anticipated needs (next five years) of University Resources:**

**Library:** The Center has no library needs of its own, but strives to contribute to Asian book purchases made by the Mansfield Library as resources allow.

**Technology/equipment:** Three new computers and two new printers ($7000)

**Facility and space:** The Center needs three new offices (between regular and Confucius Institute staff and visiting scholars)

**13. Source of Funding (provide figures for the last fiscal year):**

|  |
| --- |
| Attach Center Review Budget Form |

**B. Review and Approval Process**

The Faculty Senate through its Chair, who in turn shall distribute it to ECOS and other committees, and approve or disapprove the proposal by a vote of the Senate.

**1. Review in terms of Scope as stated in UM Policy 310**

*To provide instruction, scholarship, or service to the University, state, region or world by: (1) focusing attention on an area of strength and/or addressing a critical issue, or (2) facilitating collaborative, multi-disciplinary endeavors to combine resources from several programs or institutions to address issues of common interest.*

The Mansfield Center’s focus on Asian affairs is a strength and addresses a critical issue, and its valuable work facilitates collaborative and multi-disciplinary efforts on many issues of common interest.

**2. Review in terms of the University’s mission.**

*The University of Montana-Missoula pursues academic excellence as demonstrated by the quality of curriculum and instruction, student performance, and faculty professional accomplishments. The University accomplishes this mission, in part, by providing unique educational experiences through the integration of the liberal arts, graduate study, and professional training with international and interdisciplinary emphases. The University also educates competent and humane professionals and informed, ethical, and engaged citizens of local and global communities; and provides basic and applied research, technology transfer, cultural outreach, and service benefiting the local community, region, State, nation and the world.*

Stephen E. Noerper, Adjunct Associate Professor of Political Science at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University, conducted an external review of the Mansfield Center. His review was extremely positive:

In sum, the Mansfield Center advocates well for and empowers the University of Montana through its offerings, and in turn the Center and its leadership and staff convey a great appreciation for the University and administration’s support. The Center is in excellent stead by way of orientation and an impressive, if not exhaustive, array of offerings—facilitated by an extremely dedicated director and team. This reviewer has three decades in university and non-profits and regards the Mansfield Center as impressive in its impact, vital given concerns over foreign policy in this US presidential campaign and for a new US administration, and true to its legacy and namesake. Mansfield’s leadership is sorely missed in Washington and Northeast Asia at these worrying times. The Center helps craft brighter minds bent on dialogue and creative solutions, essential for the University of Montana, state, region, nation and Asia.

**3. Does ECOS/Faculty Senate consider this center controversial?**

No, with the possible exception of the Confucius Institute. Funded by the Chinese government, the Confucius Institute has been controversial on several university campuses, particularly after a high-ranking Chinese official publicly described it as "an important part of China's overseas propaganda set-up."[[1]](#footnote-2)

**4. Is the relationship with academic units beneficial?**

The Center works closely with a wide range of UM departments and programs (see above) and is thus instrumental in expanding awareness and fostering better understanding of the peoples, cultures, and policies of the nations of Asia by offering courses, organizing conferences, pursuing exchanges, supporting research and scholarship on Asia-related topics, for example. The Center routinely cross-lists courses with Political Science, History, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and Anthropology.

**5. Is the program revenue neutral or does it consume more resources than it generates? If so, is the use of University resources justified?**

The Center is largely self-funded and uses few University resources beyond physical space.

**6. Is the entity making progress toward objectives?**

Yes, the activities, events, coursework, and conferences are in keeping with the objectives set forth by the Center.

**7. Recommendation:**

ECOS recommends that the Center be continued.

**8. Justification:**

The Center should receive continued support from UM and the state because it is fulfilling its mission by educating and informing Montanans about the increasingly important role that Asia has in the global economy and in global politics. The Center not only helps Montanans understand US-Asian politics, but it also plays a key role in bridging cultural gaps and increasing awareness between the U.S. and Asian countries.

1. http://chronicle.texterity.com/chronicle/20101022a?pg=8#pg8 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)